

**From:** KKJones2@aol.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/10/02 4:52pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir or Madam:

I was a very early user of personal computers before Microsoft developed (took over from another company) an operating system.

It was chaos with multiple, competing operating systems in those first years.

It was far more expensive in two ways: (1) when a new computer was purchased, it either had to be the same brand or it required the purchase of a different operating system and (2) individual programs were more expensive and often not available for your brand of computer. The standardization of an operating system accepted by most users has led to reduced costs and ease of using programs, which range from technical through taxes to games. When monopolies lead to higher costs or less accessibility, then we, the public, need to be protected. In this case, we do not need to be protected. In fact, the effort against Microsoft has left us in jeopardy.

Before retiring, I owned a small computerized accounting firm. I did not expect the government to break up Arthur Anderson and others in order to make it easier for me to compete. In a similar way, I do not expect the government to be a "partner" with firms trying to compete with Microsoft.

I urge you to settle the Microsoft case, leaving the standards that Microsoft has created, which are a benefit to almost the entire public. Other systems are available, if one chooses them. All most of us want is to have left untouched the order from chaos that Microsoft has brought to the computing world.

Thank you for your consideration.

King K. Jones